



ERIE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Summer 2018

Issue 10

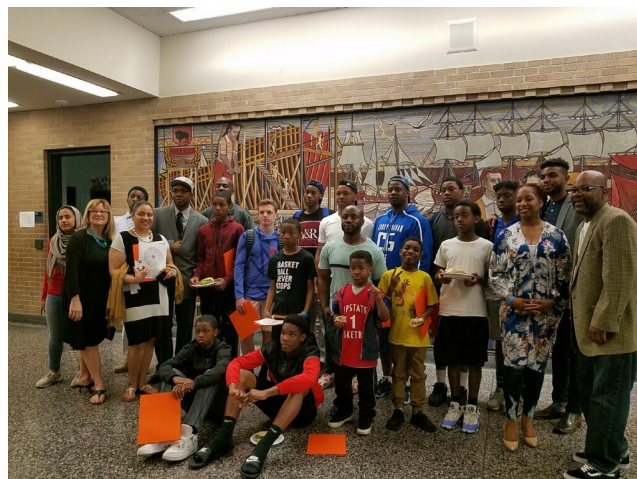
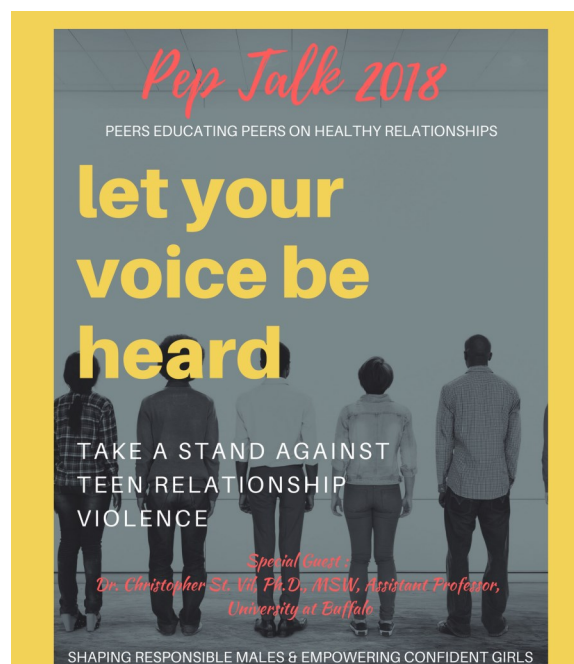
Healthy Relationships: Peers Educating Peers

On June 9, 2018, the ECCSW, in conjunction with Hope Buffalo and Confident Girl Mentoring, hosted a Healthy Relationships summit for high school students at West Hertel Academy. Students heard from Keynote Speaker Dr. Christopher St. Vil, an assistant professor at the University of Buffalo, on issues such as harmful gender stereotypes. The students then participated in breakout sessions where they reflected upon Dr. St. Vil's lecture. The students discussed how rigid gender roles and constructions of masculinities impact and lead to unhealthy relationships and teen dating violence.

Additionally, Tamika Maclin from the She Rose Organization spoke and delivered a powerful personal narrative. Tamika Maclin founded the She Rose Organization after her daughter became a victim of sexual violence and murder. Maclin spoke to the students about how societal norms of dating violence and toxic masculinities can become fatal in a compelling speech.

The students' willingness to examine these issues led directly to the success of the summit. Working together, participants came up with action plans they can implement at school. Some students even expressed interest in becoming student ambassadors for their home schools in the fall, educating peers and taking on a leadership role.

Imperative in maintaining initiatives such as the Healthy Relationships program is advocacy driven by students. With students as leaders, there is space to collaborate safely in a trusting environment. Students feel more empowered to institute change. While there is still a lot of work to be done and more schools to engage with, these first steps can be regarded as the foundation for a broader effort within Erie County to promote Healthy Relationships. For more information about the Healthy Relationships program contact Karen King at: karen.king@erie.gov.





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First Amendment, First Vote Field Trip to Seneca Falls

On May 24, students from Western New York area high schools departed on a field trip to Seneca Falls to learn about the First Amendment, First Vote initiative and the history of the Seneca Falls Convention. First Amendment, First Vote aims to educate high school girls on the First and Nineteenth Amendments to the Constitution, show girls the historical significance of Seneca Falls, NY in the women's rights movement, and encourage girls to register to vote and imagine themselves as candidates.

The Wesleyan Chapel was introduced to the high school students as the site of the first women's rights convention where the groundbreaking Declaration of Sentiments was created and signed. The students had a "conversation" with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the principal author of the Declaration, which demanded women's equality with men before the law. Other notable historical sites visited include the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House. The National Women's Hall of Fame allowed students to discover inductees whose contributions have transformed the landscape of America. Additionally, visiting the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, which she called the "Center of the Rebellion," was an invaluable opportunity to gain insight into Elizabeth Cady Stanton's personal life.

The First Amendment First Vote field trip proved a rewarding and immersive experience for all, as the participants explored women's history to inform and pioneer the future of women's political engagement.

**Students pose with
"Elizabeth Cady
Stanton" re-enactor
at the Women's
Rights National His-
torical Park.**



Questions or comments? E-mail us at csw@erie.gov or call at (716) 858-8307



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Seneca Falls Field Trip Photos



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